



Volunteer Newsletter

A Summary of the 2019 Sampling Season

California Collaborative Fisheries
Research Program – North Coast



Greetings Volunteers,

Thanks to you, we have successfully completed **FIVE** years of data collection inside and outside MPAs on the North Coast. During the 2019 season we conducted 18 total hook-and-line surveys in 2 MPAs and 4 reference sites and caught 1,577 fish (463 tagged) representing 21 different species. Please enjoy these pictures and some of our preliminary results from the first 5 years of MPA monitoring. Thank You!!



We now have the resources to continue MPA monitoring in 2020 and have begun to prepare for the sampling season! Keep an eye on your email this summer for your opportunity to be a volunteer angler!

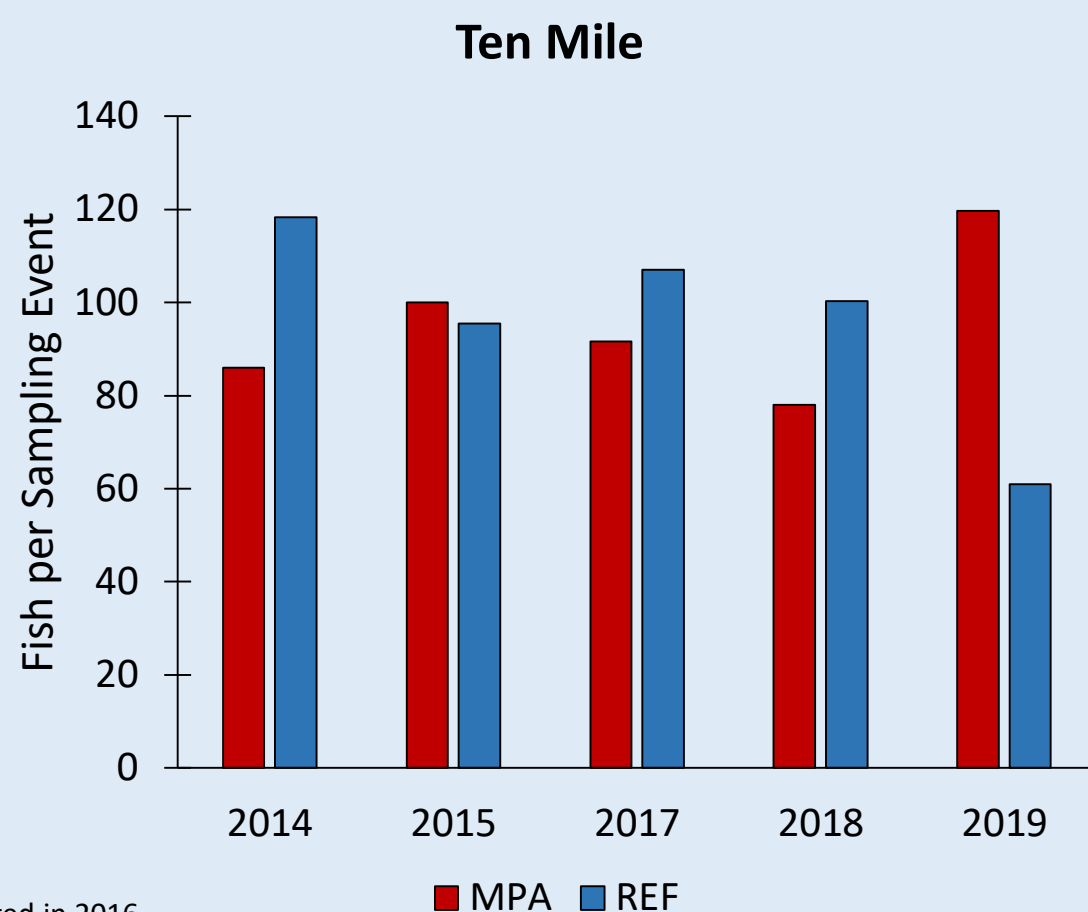
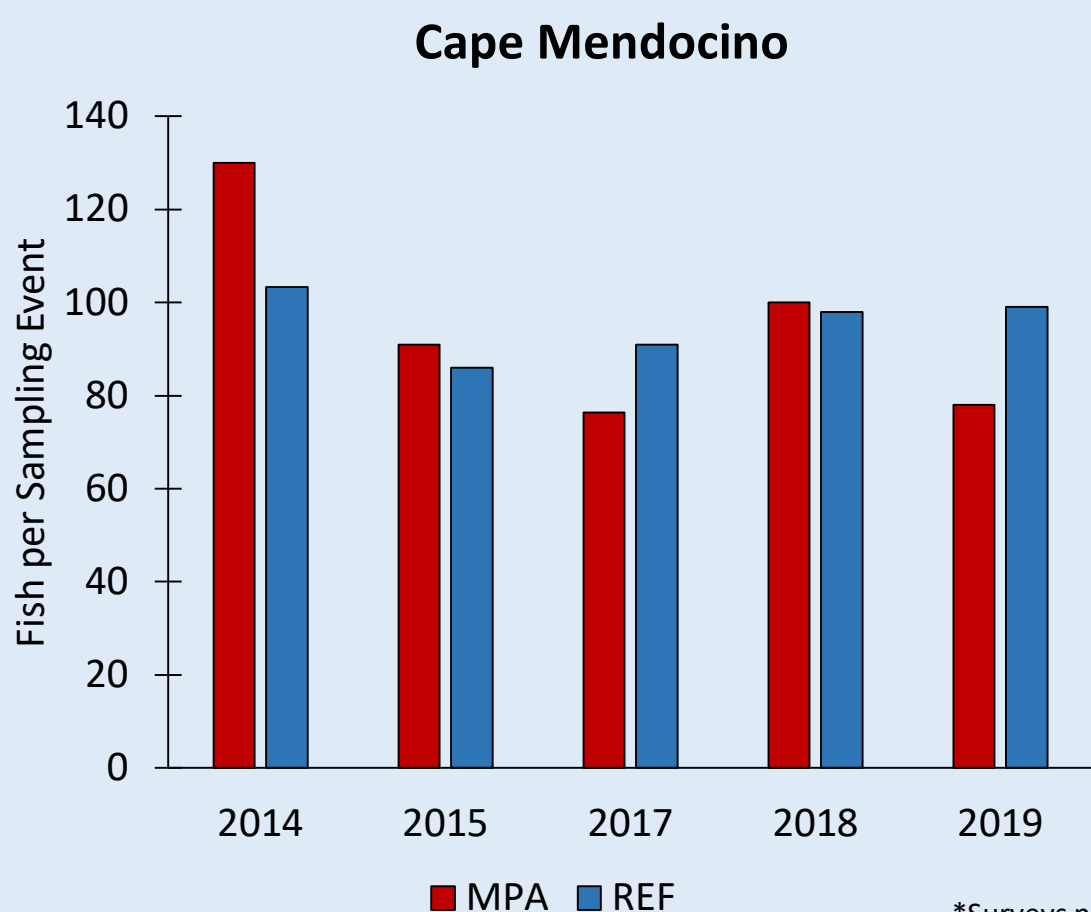
Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for updates and pictures from each trip!



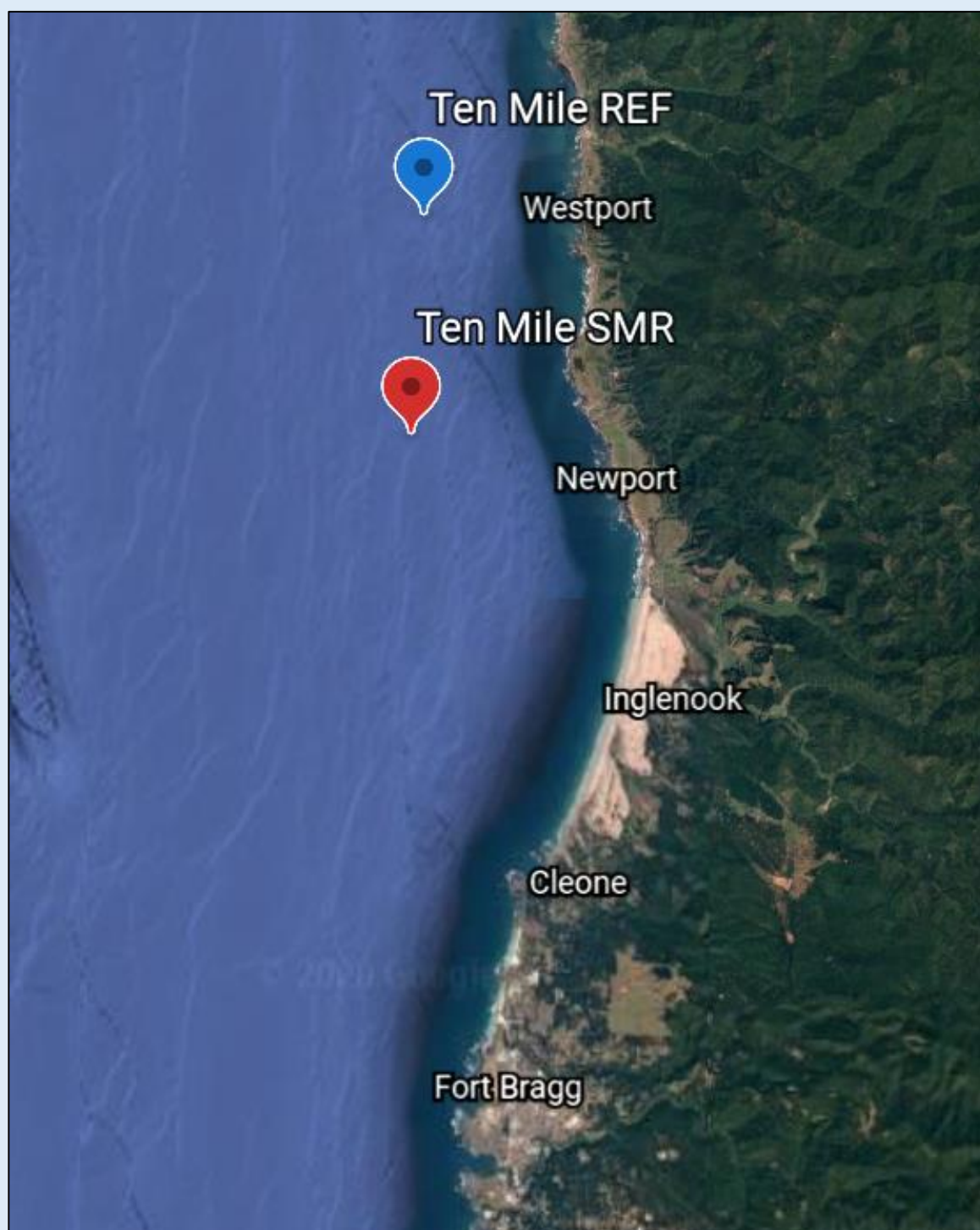
@NorthCoastCFR

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Total Fish per Sampling Event Over the First Five Years of MPA Monitoring



The first five years of survey data in the South Cape Mendocino and Ten Mile MPA and Reference sites show some annual variation, but in general, fish catches have been fairly consistent over time. Catch rates between MPA and Reference sites remain similar year to year with no significant MPA effect being documented. We expect to start seeing catch rates inside MPAs begin to increase relative to their reference sites in the next five years of surveys.



Introduction to the Deacon Rockfish



In 2015, the Deacon Rockfish was described and separated from what scientists and anglers alike called Blue Rockfish. These two species look very similar and many anglers are still learning to differentiate the two. There are two main characteristics that can help you tell the Blue and Deacon Rockfish apart:

1. Body Coloration

Blue Rockfish are blue/green with heavy dark blotches along the side.

Deacon Rockfish are uniformly dark with small speckling along the sides.

2. Lower Jaw Length

Blue Rockfish have upper and lower jaws that meet together uniformly.

Deacon Rockfish have a lower jaw that protrudes past the upper jaw creating an “underbite”.



Tag Returns

During the 2019 sampling season we got a total of five tag returns, three of which were caught on our sampling trips. One notable recapture was a Copper Rockfish (Tag # 0164) tagged in 2014, our first year of surveys. This Copper Rockfish was originally caught and released inside the South Cape Mendocino MPA on 6/26/2014 and recaptured in the same location on 6/24/2019, almost five years later! This fish grew only 2 inches during that time.



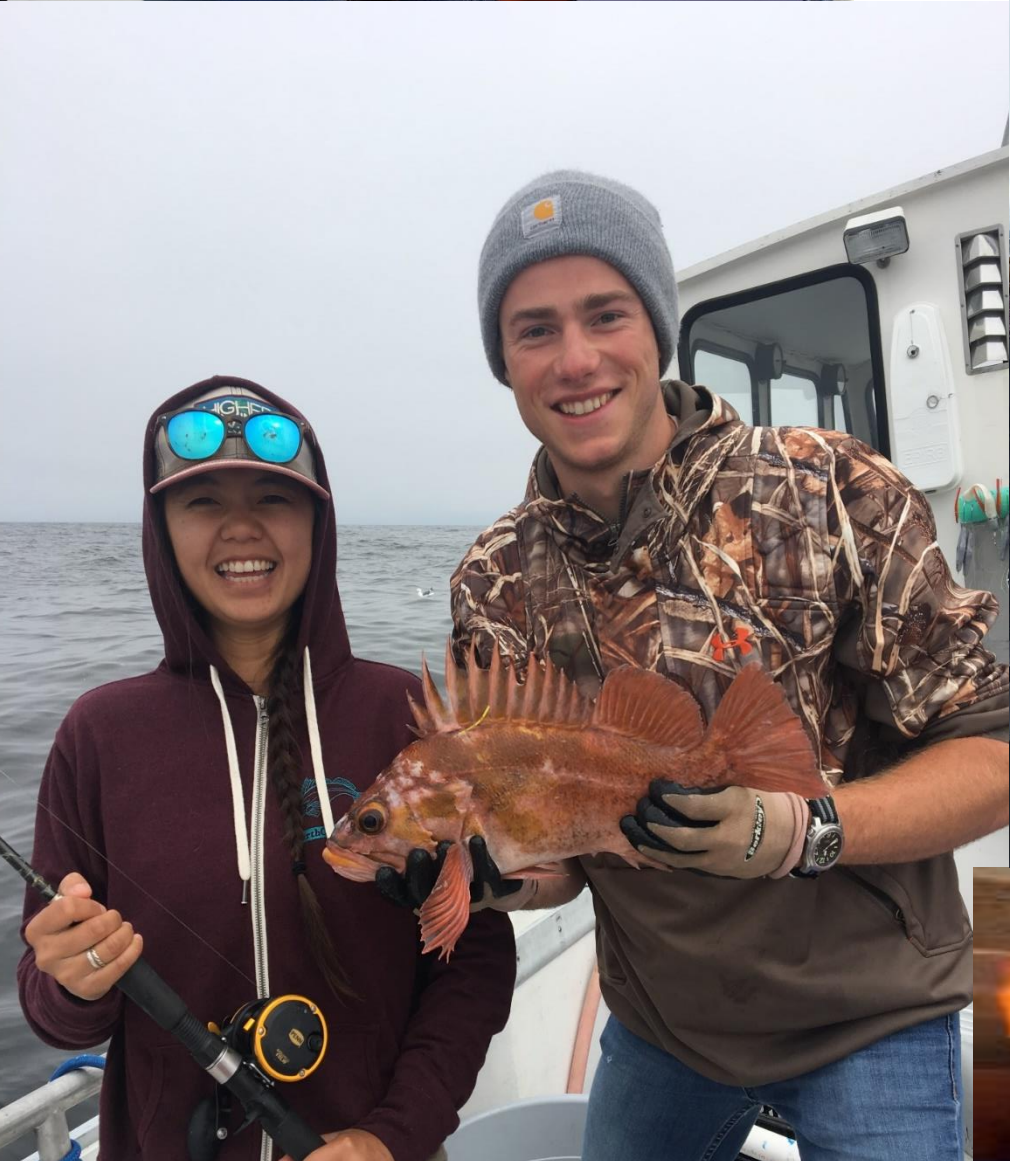
2019's Largest Fishes



| Species | Length |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Black Rockfish | 62 cm (24 in) |
| Blue Rockfish | 40 cm (16 in) |
| Lingcod | 140 cm (55 in) |
| Canary rockfish | 56 cm (21 in) |
| Yellowtail Rockfish | 35 cm (14 in) |
| Copper Rockfish | 51 cm (20 in) |
| China Rockfish | 43 cm (17 in) |
| Quillback Rockfish | 48 cm (19 in) |
| Vermilion Rockfish | 54 cm (21 in) |
| Olive Rockfish | 46 cm (18 in) |
| Kelp Greenling | 41 cm (16 in) |
| Yelloweye Rockfish | 67 cm (26 in) |
| Cabazon | 62 cm (24 in) |

*All values rounded to the nearest centimeter and inch, respectively

Thank you for your continued support!



Can't wait to see you on the boat this year!